

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A cooking apparatus, comprising:
a body provided in a top thereof with an opening;
at least one heating unit arranged in the body;
a grill unit mounted on the top of the body; and
a heat reflecting unit arranged below the grill unit to face the heating unit,
wherein the heat reflecting unit has an inner space to contain water, a water inlet through which the water is fed into the inner space, a water level maintaining unit that maintains the water below a predetermined water level in the inner space, and a water vapor discharging space positioned in an upper portion of the inner space.
2. The cooking apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
the heat reflecting unit comprises a bottom plate, front and rear plates, side plates, and a pair of inner reflecting plates and a pair of outer reflecting plates positioned within the front, rear, bottom, and side plates;
the inner reflecting plates are positioned in contact with each other at upper ends thereof, and the upper ends of the inner reflecting plates are farther from the bottom plate than the upper ends of the outer reflecting plates which are spaced apart from each other; and
the front plate comprises an upper surface, and inner and outer surfaces, and the front plate is provided in the upper surface thereof with a water inlet, and in the inner surface thereof, at a predetermined distance from the bottom plate, the front plate is provided with the water level maintaining unit, that has at least one overflow hole.
3. The cooking apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein:
the overflow hole is positioned at a distance from the bottom plate substantially equal to that of the upper ends of the outer reflecting plates so that the water contained in the inner space of the heat reflecting unit is maintained at a level corresponding to that of the upper ends of the outer reflecting plates.
4. The cooking apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the outer surface of the front plate of the heat reflecting unit comprises:

a water level window, to ascertain the water level of the inner space of the heat reflecting unit.

5. The cooking apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein:
the bottom plate is convex in relation to the inner space of the heat reflecting unit, to reduce a volume of the inner space.

6. The cooking apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein:
the front plate of the heat reflecting unit is positioned outside the body when the heat reflecting unit is inserted into the body, so that oil and sauce separated from food are prevented from entering the inner space of the heat reflecting unit through the water inlet.

7. A cooking apparatus, comprising:
a body;
a cooking surface;
at least one heating unit; and
a heat reflecting unit, removably mounted in the body to reflect heat from the heating unit toward the cooking surface, and collect liquid and particulate separated from food during cooking.

8. The cooking apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:
the heat reflecting unit is maintained below a predetermined temperature so that the collected liquid and particulate do not burn.

9. The cooking apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the heat reflecting unit comprises:
a frame; and
a collecting and reflecting structure attached to the frame to reflect heat from the heating unit toward the cooking surface, and collect the liquid and particulate separated from the food during cooking.

10. The cooking apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the collecting and reflecting structure comprises:
inner reflecting plates, non-coplanarly joined at first edges thereof; and

outer reflecting plates, each non-coplanarly joined to a second edge of one of the inner reflecting plates.

11. The cooking apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the collecting and reflecting structure further comprises:

at least one recess defined where at least one of the inner reflecting plates joins the corresponding outer reflecting plate, to collect the liquid separated from the food during cooking.

12. The cooking apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:
the frame and the collecting and reflecting structure define a cavity therebetween, in which a cooling fluid is housed to cool the collecting and reflecting structure.

13. The cooking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the frame comprises:
a fluid inlet in communication with the cavity, to introduce the cooling fluid to the cavity.

14. The cooking apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the frame further comprises:
an outer member that remains outside the body when the heat reflecting unit is mounted in the body,
wherein the fluid inlet is located on the outer body to prevent the liquid and particulate separated from the food during cooking from entering the cavity through the fluid inlet.

15. The cooking apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the frame further comprises:
an overflow hole in communication with the cavity, to prevent a volume of cooling fluid in the cavity from exceeding a predetermined volume.

16. The cooking apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the collecting and reflecting structure comprises:
inner reflecting plates, non-coplanarly joined at first edges thereof; and
outer reflecting plates, each non-coplanarly joined to a second edge of one of the inner reflecting plates,

wherein at least one recess is defined where at least one of the inner reflecting plates joins the corresponding outer reflecting plate, to collect the liquid separated from the food during cooking, and the overflow hole is positioned such that excess cooling fluid drains into the recess.

17. The cooking apparatus according to claim 15, wherein:
the collecting and reflecting structure comprises
inner reflecting plates, non-coplanarly joined at first edges thereof, and
outer reflecting plates, each non-coplanarly joined to a second edge of one of the inner reflecting plates;
the at least one heating unit is positioned adjacent to at least one of the outer reflecting plates; and
the overflow hole is positioned such that when the volume of cooling fluid equals the predetermined volume, the cooling fluid cools a portion of the at least one of the outer reflecting plates adjacent to the at least one heating unit.

18. The cooking apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the outer member comprises:
a cooling fluid level window made of transparent material, to ascertain a level of cooling fluid in the cavity.

19. The cooking apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the cooling fluid level window has a graduation corresponding to the position of the overflow hole.

20. The cooking apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the outer member comprises:
a grip, to aid insertion and removal of the heat reflecting unit.

21. The cooking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the frame comprises:
a convex member that is convex in relation to the cavity, to reduce a volume of the cavity.

22. The cooking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:
the cooling fluid is water.